



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Lackawanna, NY

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Lackawanna was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Located in northwest New York near Buffalo, Lackawanna (population 19,064) is a federally designated Renewal Community located along the shores of Lake Erie. In the early 1900s, with the construction of one of the largest steel plants in the world, Bethlehem Steel, Lackawanna became an industrial center. At its peak, this plant employed over 20,000 people. By the 1970s, Bethlehem began reducing operations at the plant. Today, less than 400 people are employed in what remains of the former plant. The loss of Lackawanna's manufacturing base is reflected in its income and poverty rates. The median household income in the city is 68 percent of the state median, and 16.7 percent of city residents live below the poverty level. Assess-



Assessment Grants



**\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the City of Lackawanna for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach, update and prioritize the city's inventory of sites, perform up to five Phase I and two Phase II environmental site assessments, and develop cleanup plans for up to two high priority sites around the city. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at petroleum sites.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team
212-637-4314

[http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/
brownfields/](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/)

Grant Recipient: City of Lackawanna, NY
716-827-6464

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

ment and eventual cleanup of the brownfields in the city will help remove the stigma of environmental contamination and enable the city to attract businesses that will provide living-wage jobs and career opportunities for residents. The city also plans to take advantage of its waterfront location to increase recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.